

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00452 110637Z

ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH, SU

SUBJ: PRC JOURNAL LINKS CHIANG CHING WITH SOVIET BORDER STANCE

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 3 KUANGMING DAILY, WRITTEN BY THE CRITICISM GROUP OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE'S INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH, ACCUSES MAO'S WIDOW OF HAVING TAKEN THE SOVIET SIDE IN THE BORDER CONTROVERSY. THE AUTHORS USE A COMMENT CHIANG CHING MADE IN TIENTSIN IN 1974 ABOUT THE HISTORICAL FUNCTION OF THE GREAT WALL AS EVIDENCE SHE CONSIDERED THE LANDS NORTH OF THE WALL--INNER MONGOLIA AND THE THREE MANCHURIAN PROVINCES--TO BE FOREIGN TERRITORY. THIS POINT OF VIEW, THE ARTICLE CLAIMS, IS IDENTICAL WITH THE POSITION THE SOVIETS TOOK IN A STATEMENT ON JUNE 13, 1969, AND THUS DEMONSTRATES THAT CHIANG WAS WORKING FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND AGAINST CHINA.

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2. THE OCTOBER 24, 1976 JOINT EDITORIAL AND SUBSEQUENT COMMENTARY HAVE CHARGED THAT THE GANG OF FOUR "MAINTAINED ILLICIT FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS," BUT THE ONLY EVIDENCE PRESENTED PUBLICLY HAS BEEN CHIANG CHINA'S TALKS WITH AMERICAN AUTHOR ROXANNE WITKE--A STANDARD FEATURE IN CARTOONS ATTACKING THE GANG. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH CRITICISM ALSO OF CHIANG'S INDULGENCE

IN FOREIGN GOODS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE CARTOON IN AN
EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY HAS THE LABEL
"MADE IN FRANCE" IN HER HAIR AND "MADE
IN JAPAN" ON HER TEETH. THE REGIME MAY FEEL SOME
EMBARRASSMENT AT GIVING THE RADICALS A PRO-WESTERN--
AND THUS IMPLICITLY ANTI-SOVIET--IMAGE. BUT RESORTING
TO THE GREAT WALL QUOTE FOR EVIDENCE OF PRO-SOVIET
LEANINGS ONLY FURTHER ILLUSTRATES THE DIFFICULTY
OF PUTTING TOGETHER ANY PLAUSIBLE CASE FOR THE
"ILLICIT FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS" CHARGE.
GATES

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Message Attributes

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